Episode 7- Mike Wants to Get Rid of Some Lousy Memories

scene 1- int. crazy dream place, ???

I'm in some dream where it's like a mix between a theater, a convenience store, and a dorm room. I exit the stage after the show, making sure to buy a disposable camera at the store as I exit. I then go to the dorm room, where VERONICA is.

mike

I bought you this. For the show.

veronica

But the show's over, what am I going to-

MIKE

No, you moron. The show has only just begun.

I position her to have sexy time.

MIKE

Before we do anything... I wanted to tell you I'm sorry about everything. I've been an asshole and you don't deserve it.

I turn my head for a second and look away.

MIKE

I've thought about you every day, you know...

MONSTER TRANSFORMATION! From beneath me arises a mutated smathering of VERONICA, K_____, M_____, and BITCH. Then S_____ comes in from behind.

S_____

We've been thinking about you too.

Alarm clock noises fade in. MELISSA pops in.

MELISSA

Hey Mike, your alarm clock's been going off for the last five minutes- oh. I see.

She surveys the scene, then rushes in and tears out everyone's throats but mine.

MELISSA

Rise and shine, sweet feet!

scene 2- int. mike's bedroom, nov 16th 2010, 11:25AM

I stir to awakeness. MEL is leaning over me and sneaks in a smooch!

MELISSA

Morning, strangehead.

MIKE

So I'm strangehead now?

MELISSA

Yes. Your head is strange. How many not strange people have you met who've had a dream like that?

MIKE

I've never met anyone who's had a dream quite like that, strange or not.

MELISSA

Good point. Then again you've never asked.

MIKE

Okay, I'll ask the next person I see on the street and see what they think. How's that?

MELISSA

You could ask me!

MIKE

I could... have you ever-

MELISSA

NO! YOU'RE A WEIRDO FOR DREAMING THAT AND AN EVEN WEIRDER-O FOR ASKING IF I HAVE!

MIKE

Thanks, Mel-

MELISSA

YOU'RE WELCOME!

intro sequence!!!

scene 3- ext. mike's apartment, nov 16 2010, 11:45 am

MEL and I exit the apartment and are walking towards the class place.

MIKE

Man...

MELISSA

Man?

MIKE

Man! Why can't I just dream about sex all the time?

MELISSA

You don't need to. You have dream sex with me, remember?

MIKE

Well... true. Still, I want those fiends to go away forever.

MELISSA

Why do you still let them bother you? You almost never see any of them.

MIKE

Yeah, but... I never got even with any of them. If I could just hit them all super hard in the face and walk away like a badass, then I'd be set.

MELISSA

Well, you can't do that. You'd get arrested.

MIKE

Possibly. So what do you suggest?

MELISSA

How about you write an episode of our series where you trash them for 22 minutes?

MIKE

Alright! Sounds like an emmy winner to me!

MELISSA

Seriously though, here's what you do: ignore them. Let them live their miserable, empty lives, and then when they see you're a bigtime TV/movie man, they'll pee themselves.

MIKE

That's just peachy if it happens...

MELISSA

It will, baby.

Smooch!

MELISSA

In the meantime, just enjoy the real friends you have, and don't be afraid to meet new people... like TWINKY DUNKAN!!!

She scurries up a tree and lies next to a teeny little squirrel.

MIKE

Twinky Dunkan?

MELISSA

Yeah, man! It's this little dude who lives in the tree by your window and he's like my best friend ever!

MIKE

So how can you tell him apart from all the other little squirrels who live around here?

MELISSA

I know all the squirrels in the neighborhood! So Twinky, has that Walrus Gumbo been giving you trouble again?

MIKE

Now who's Walrus Gumbo???

MELISSA

That one there.

A fat squirrel saunters by and plops over.

MIKE

Ha. That squirrel is fat.

MELISSA

Gee, you think that's why his name is Walrus Gumbo?

MIKE

Nah.

scene 4- int. angell hall auditorium a, nov 16th, 2010, 1:30PM

PROFESSOR CULKIN is having another one of his invigorating class sessions. MEL and I are sitting towards the back.

prof culkin

In Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, very clever and subtle editing techniques are used to display the removal of objects in the background, while the action in the foreground remains intact...

MELISSA

Oh, I love Eternal Sunshine! Can we watch it some time soon?

MIKE

You got it! Hey, you wanna jet and go watch it now?

MELISSA

Oooh... that's tempting, but... didn't you skip this class last week?

MIKE

Yeah, so? I already know all this stuff anyways.

PROF CULKIN

Of course, Citizen Kane utilizes every effective editing technique and handles all of them way better than every movie ever made ever could, but... that doesn't mean we can't blame them for trying. It's cute, in a way. Now, let's talk about another classic case in editing, the staircase sequence in Eisenstein's "Battleship Potempkin." I will now demonstrate how manipulating shot legnth manipulates the rhythm of the scene's action. Go ahead.

The sequence begins playing.

MIKE

I've already seen this before!

MELISSa

Yeah, but... he might have something new and insightful to say about it...

PROF CULKIN

I will now count out the legnths of the shot durations. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 1 2 3 4...

MELISSA

Alright, fine.

MIKE

How's THIS for an edit???

scene 5- ext. the diag, nov 16 2010, 2PM

We jump cut to outside of Angell Hall. What an edit!

MELISSA

Much better. But how does the cutting rhythm contribute to the larger themes of the work?

MIKE

They don't.

MELISSA

Oh, I see. Philistine!

MIKE

WHATEVER! Look, in the movie of my life, those scenes would be left on the cutting room floor.

MELISSA

Well...

MIKE

In fact, if given the chance, I'd just remove these classes from my memory, Eternal Sunshine style.

MELISSA

You've got to be kidding. You'd really have people mess with your brain just to take out some redundant classes?

MIKE

Well, more than that. I'd remove all my time from Kalamazoo College, all my time in middle school, all the-

MELISSA

Now come on! There were some good memories in there, are you really going to take ALL of them out?

MIKE

Sure. They're all tainted. What else would I do? I'd-

VERONICA approaches in my peripheries.

VERONICA

Hey, are you going to class?

I keep walking.

VERONICA

No...

Beat.

MIKE

I'd remove all my memories of HER...

MELISSA

Mike...

MIKE

I would! I so would. Don't even get me started.

MELISSA

What'd she ever do to you?

MIKE

...You know what happened. Why don't you tell me?

MELISSA

Man, I don't know EVERYTHING about you. I haven't perused all 20 years worth of memories you have stored in there.

MIKE

Well I'd think you'd know about this one. It was kind of big deal?

MELISSA

Nope!

MIKE

Grr... well in that case, you don't need to know. If I don't talk about it it'll go away, right?

MELISSA

You don't actually believe that, do you-

MIKE

Hey look, it's Twinky Dunkan!

MELISSA

WHERE?!?!?!?!?

MIKE

Hmm... I thought I saw him, but I'm not too sure... I guess you're going to have to check all of the trees in the diag to find out-

MELISSA

HEY! You... beater around bushes!

MIKE

...Well... Of all the things you've ever said to me, that was one of them.

MELISSA

...Yes, it was?!?

MIKE

Yes. It was.

scene 6- int. mike's living room, nov 16th 2010, 2PM

Movie time! I load in the DVD to the Xbox and plop on the couch.

MIKE

You know it's kinda funny. Even though I'm skipping class, I still feel like I'm doing the work for it. What's that say?

MELISSA

You're becoming a true film student, of course!

MIKE

Maybe... or maybe school has ruined movies forever by turning them into homework!

MELISSA

Man, if you look at it with that attitude... do you think biologists look at plants and animals like they're homework?

MIKE

If they're undergrads? You betcha! And if one of them ever found out about you, they'd be thinking extra credit!

MELISSA

Sorry, you're the only one getting extra credit at my school.

She plops next to me and we snuggle up, kissie face included.

MELISSA

SO, want to make today a movie fest?

MIKE

Sure. Charlie Kaufman themed? I own pretty much all his stuff.

MELISSA

Yeah, we could do that... but I'm thinking we should add a little variety in. Something along the lines of COOL HAND LUKE?

MIKE

...I'm not really in the mood for that one...

MELISSA

Is it because it makes you think of HER?

MIKE

YOU LITTLE WEASEL!

MELISSA

Funny you say that. Did you know that skunks and weasels are both part of the mustelidae family? I bet most people think we're rodents-

MIKE

You lied to me!

MELISSA

You're right. We're only part of the same SUPERfamily-

MIKE

Now cut that out! You knew all about everything, didn't you?

MELISSA

...Alright, come with me.

MIKE

Where are we going?

MELISSA

Into your cloudy, spotted mind, of course!

She grabs me and pulls me in to my own brain!

scene 7- int. mike's imaginationland, ???

MEL and I land in that central area of my mind that we always land in.

MELISSA

Did you remember to pause the movie?

MIKE

Crap... no.

MELISSA

Nuts to that! Well, we can put it on miniscreen while we take care of this. Car ride! Destination: lousy memories land!

The car comes in.

MIKE

Hey Mel... can I drive this time?

MELISSA

Don't be silly, you don't know your way around here!

MIKE

Oh, yes. I don't know my own brain. Come on now, that's not gonna work on me.

MELISSA

Alright, fine. I'm just saying, you might not know it quite as well as you think.

MIKE

Well, I'll be surprised if I find anything stranger than you.

MELISSA

Gee, thanks-

MIKE

YOU'RE WELCOME!

We get in and I start to drive off. I'm like going wherever, and MEL notices I'm kinda not going where I'm supposed to.

MELISSA

Are you sure you know where you're going?

MIKE

Yeah, man. I'm just taking an alternate route, you know... it's kind of a shortcut to the uh...

We wind up in...

scene 8- int. lousy memories land, ???

I crash the car on the memory of backing into a tree. How does that work??? I dunno, but it does!

MELISSA

Oh, what do ya know? We're here. And here I thought you were just driving aimlessly trying to avoid this place at all costs.

MIKE

Gee, why would you think something like that?

She flips my nose with her finger and steps out. I follow.

MIKE

So great we're here. Can we go now?

MELISSA

Nuh-uh, we got stuff to do here first.

MIKE

I don't want to do anything here! EVER!

MELISSA

Well... if that's what you really feel, you won't have to after today.

MIKE

You mean it?

Nodz.

MIKE

Fine... What's the stuff?

MELISSA

I'm giving you the opportunity to delete every single memory here.

MIKE

Well... you've certainly given me something to think about. Can I have a minute?

MELISSA

Take as long as you need. I'm going to go grab a snack.

MIKE

That sounds like a really great idea!

MELISSA

I know, right???

COMMERCIAL BRAK!!! We come back with a bowl full of chips.

MELISSA

Brain food. Ha.

MIKE

Ha.

MELISSA

So... think about what you wanna do bout this bad shit?

MIKE

Yeah, trash it all.

MELISSA

WHAT!?! Did you even think about it at all???

MIKE

Didn't have to. I just stalled because I wanted some chips.

MELISSA

Alright, look. I'll do it, but first I want to go through some of these memories with you. Just like two, no more than three. And after that, if you still want them gone, they're gone. Dig it?

MIKE

If you insist. Just don't pick anything TOO bad-

MELISSA

I know just what to pick.

She grabs a toilet floating by, which transforms into...

scene 9- int. mike and brendan's apt, nov. 14th 2009, 11PM

My past self drunk off 5 O' and singing along to The Wall, in tears. MEL and I plop next to them.

past mike

When I try to get through... on the telephone to you... there'll be nobody home...

MIKE

Oh yeah, get rid of this.

MELISSA

Hold on, let me make sure this is the one I think it is... November sophomore year at Western, all alone on a Saturday night, just broke up

with your girlfriend, Michigan got killed, Ohio State won the Big Ten (again), and everything just sucks. Sound about right?

MIKE

Yep. Trash this scene.

MELISSA

Hang on. You have a call to make first.

My past self calls up S_____.

S_____

Stop calling me! Haven't I made it clear that I don't want to talk to you?

past MIKE

Please just listen to me... I fucked up, alright? I shouldn't have broken up with you. Please... I just want to talk to you.

S_____

Leave me alone, you psychostalker! It's your fault everything fell apart, I'M the one who put all the effort into the relationship!

past MIKE

Then why didn't you answer any of my calls or my texts or my emails?

S_____

You're insane. I can't even talk to you.

past MIKE

Does it make you happy knowing I'm miserable without you?

She hangs up. I realize this and I throw my phone against the wall.

MIKE

Thanks for this. After thorough examination, I can safely say that there is absolutely NOTHING from this memory I want to keep. But you know what? I COULD HAVE TOLD YOU THAT BEFORE!!!

MELISSA

But Mike, it's okay. I'm a WAY better lover than any of her future boyfriends will ever be. (beat) Hear that?

My phone is ringing. My past self picks it up.

PAST MIKE

...Hello?

VERONICA

When are you coming back to Ann Arbor?

past MIKE

Next weekend...

VERONICA

Are you alright?

past MIKE

My ex thinks I'm a psychostalker!

MELISSA

And so you spent the next few weeks talking with her about that slag and her d-bag exes, sharing advice, hangin' out, watching movies, etc... but most important, you were reminded that people cared about you.

MIKE

Blah blah blah. You're not changing my mind.

MELISSA

I'm just making sure you remember it like I do.

mike

Yeah, I do. Wish I didn't, though.

MELISSA

What's wrong with hanging out with her? She's nice, fun, has good taste in music-

MIKE

She kept complaining about her guy troubles to me!

MELISSA

And you listened?

MIKE

I thought it would show I respected her, and that in turn, she would want to be with me. Makes sense, right?

MELISSA

It does to me. But human women... most of them, anyways, don't work like that. So instead, you got friendzoned, friendo.

MIKE

Yup. That's it. Lesson learned: don't respect women if you want them to date you. Guess we can trash this then-

MELISSA

Oh, hey, what's this? This is interesting.

MIKE

WHY WON'T YOU LISTEN TO ME???

MELISSA

I am, I'm just not... you know?

scene 10- int. ted and roy's apt, january 16th, 2010, 5AM

My past self is puking in the toilet. PHIL and TED are watching over.

MIKE

I'm serious, I want this gone!

MELISSA

Come on, how would you know not to drink this much if not for this memory?

MIKE

I could listen to my parents.

MELISSA

Pshht, who does that? Listen to THIS.

PAST MIKE

Guys... I want you to kill me.

PHIL

No...

PAST MIKE

Please... I can't go on after this... what if my parents find out?

TED

Dude, do you know how many times I've been in the exact same spot you're in? And my parents still love me.

PAST MIKE

Nobody should love me... I'm a loser! I have no talent, I have no dreams, women think I'm disgusting...

TED

Dude, none of that is true at all.

PAST MIKE

Yes it is! What woman doesn't think I'm disgusting?

TED

I know for a fact that Veronica wants to fuck you.

PAST MIKE

No she doesn't. She just talks about other boys...

phil

She's playing games with you. Women do that kind of thing all the time.

PAST MIKE

Really...?

MIKE

NO. NOT REALLY.

MELISSA

Oh hush.

PAST MIKE

So... what do I do?

PHIL

First, get all the bad juju out.

TED

And tomorrow's going to suck, not gonna lie, but the first chance you get go to her.

PAST MIKE

I love you guys.

PHIL

We love you too, Mike.

I reach my hand out for Phil's foot, and he foot-clasps it.

PAST MIKE

I'm never drinking again.

ted

No, you will.

MIKE

Yeah... I did...

MELISSA

But you kept it in check from then on. And even if you didn't you knew there were people who would be there for you. Anyways, one hangover recovery day later...

scene 11- int. veronica's dorm, january 16th, 2010, 2AM

Veronica and Past I are watching Cool Hand Luke. MEL and I float in.

VERONICA

BLAH BLAH BLAH DAVID TONY BLAH BLAH BLAH. So that's where I'm at. So how was your night last night? I heard you got sick.

past MIKE

Yeah... but it made me realize how much I love my friends... including you.

I look at her and smile.

VERONICA

Movie's that way.

PAST MIKE

Yeah I know...

We finish the movie. Then I'm getting ready to go.

VERONICA

Thanks for hanging out with me tonight, even though you're hung over.

PAST MIKE

Nah, I'm alright now.

VERONICA

When will you be back in town?

PAST MIKE

I dunno. Maybe next weekend? Maybe weekend after? I'll let you know.

VERONICA

Okay.

We hug. Then I begin to walk out the door, but stop.

PAST MIKE

Veronica... I want to be more than just friends.

Long pause.

VERONICA

I had a feeling that was the case.

PAST MIKE

...So?

VERONICA

I never liked you as anything more than a friend.

PAST MIKE

...Okay...

VERONICA

Listen, it's late, but we can talk about this tomorrow or something. I don't want this to sour our friendship though.

PAST MIKE

Well... next time you have trouble with your boys don't come crying to me.

I walk away.

MIKE

And guess what? She did anyways! So now do you understand why I don't want to see her ever again?

MELISSA

Yes, I do. And you have every right to think that. But you know what? I bet every day she feels awful about what she did to you. (beat) Alright, well... as I promised, I'll delete all these memoriesif you still want to. Choice is yours.

I think about the entire string of events from the drinking to the rejection to our latest encounter.

MIKE

Goddamn it... leave them all...

MELISSA

Wait... do you mean it?

MIKE

I don't know why, but yes.

MELISSA

It may not seem like it, but you're making the right choice. You're a stronger, wiser person because you went through all this, and as much as they may sting now, they'll heal over time and you'll be better for it.

Kissface.

MELISSA

You're awesome.

MIKE

Yeah, sure. Whatever. Let's just go before I change my mind.

scene 6 again

We plop back into the apartment, conveniently at the end of the move.

MELISSA

You want to know something funny though? I couldn't delete those memories even if you did.

MIKE

Wait... you mean that whole time...

MELISSA

Yup! I got you gooooooooooooood!!!

MIKE

!!!!!!!!!! Ohhh... I'll give you a memory you'll want to erase!!!

MELISSA

I already have one! Your FACE!

MIKE

YOU MUST BE PUNISHED IMMEDIATELY!!!

I chase her around the table and we start grapple rasslin', and I pin her down on the carpet. Of course, we start making out.

MELISSA

You know though, there's still one thing you need to do to REALLY move on.

MIKE

Yeah, I know.

MELISSA

But not right this second... or this hour.

She plops me down and we resume super makeout time!

scene 12- ext. mlb building, nov 19th 2010, 1PM

I emerge from class and look around for a bit. Out of the blue, VERONICA appears and next thing I know we're hugging it out. MELISSA joins in our happy, half imaginary group hug. Suck on that.

outro sequence!!!

Friends don't let friends get friendzoned.